

Belmont Housing Trust  
Town of Belmont  
Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting date:	February 17, 2005
Meeting location:	Town Hall
Time meeting commenced:	7:30 p.m.
Time meeting ended:	10:10 p.m.
Members present:	
Sallye Bleiberg	no
Roger Colton	yes
Judie Feins	yes
Jonathan Jacoby	yes
Nancy Marsh	yes
Ann Silverman	no
Associate members present:	
Art Heron	no
Others present:	Gloria Leipzig

Roger Colton opened the meeting and distributed an agenda. Roger asked if there was anyone wishing to make a public comment to the Trust. No opportunity was requested.

Minutes from the meetings of December 9, 2004 and January 20, 2005 were approved as corrected.

**B Street:** According to Betsy Meisner, of WATCH, there were more than 100 applicants for the B Street affordable housing units.

**Habitat for Humanity:** David Lopes will get together with Tim Higgins and Jeffrey Wheeler to discuss the property transfer. Jeffrey has submitted the deed restriction that includes the property be affordable in perpetuity at 50% of median income or below. When the house is sold, the owner can receive the original purchase price paid plus reimbursement for any approved capital improvements plus an escalation factor. Joe Leiber, attorney for the Trust, is drawing up the deeds. So far, \$75,000 has been raised through corporate donors plus \$12,000 that was raised at the fundraiser at Katharine MacPhail's office. Judie suggested that we ask Andy Male for an update. If you wish to sign up to help with the build, go to the Habitat website. The training will take place in Boston unless local training can be arranged. You must be over 16 in order to participate in the build. Younger kids who would like to help can bring meals, etc.

**McLean:** The ARC decision has been announced. The Board of Selectmen has met to discuss the transfer of land. The Trust will receive 1.34 acres to produce 22 to 24 units of housing. Roger will contact Eric Rhodin, the developer who erected the pre-fab house on Thomas Street, to see if he has further interest in doing something similar at McLean.

**LISC:** There was a discussion as to whether to participate in responding to an RFP for housing production grants. It was voted to participate in this grant program with WATCH.

**Our Lady of Mercy Church:** Cliff Boehmer, architect for this project, will produce drawings to follow up on his proposal. There will be a meeting on Sunday, March 6, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. at

home of Anne and Fred Paulsen, 90 School Street. Nancy should call Bonnie Kenny to see if she is interested in attending the meeting. According to Steve Savarese of Century 21, it is not financially feasible to put single family dwellings on this site.

**O'Neill:** Roger distributed the state site approval letter concerning whether O'Neill can go forward with their comprehensive permit application. By May 2005, O'Neill will owe Belmont \$475,000. Legally, McLean has also been obligated to pay the town, but so far has not done so. Under Chapter 40B, the affordability must be in perpetuity, not 30 years as stated in the O'Neill proposal. The flood plains have been re-defined. The skating rink site of the property is now part of the flood plain. Roger pointed out that when hearings come before the Zoning Board of Appeals, we should object to the same issues that we raised in our original response. Also, we should stick to housing issues. As a committee, we should not take a position on the open space issue.

**New Business:** Steve Tomczek, a town meeting member who lives behind the Murray Sandler Skate property, has spoken to Roger about possible residential development. He favors multi-family or town houses on that site.

The minutes of the January 20, 2005 meeting were approved as corrected.

**The Next Meeting** will be on March 17, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Marsh, secretary